

WASHINGTON.

Financial Attitude of the Administration.

WESTERN REPUBLICANS DISSATISFIED.

Opposition to the Retirement of Greenbacks.

UNCERTAIN POSITION OF THE DEMOCRATS.

Summary of Secretary Sherman's Annual Report.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28, 1879.

WESTERN REPUBLICANS OPPOSED TO RETIRING GREENBACKS AND STOPPING THE COINAGE OF SILVER—PLANS FOR MAKING A "RECORD" AND DOING NOTHING.

The recommendations in the forthcoming Message and in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury that the coinage of silver be stopped and the greenbacks be retired, either by funding them or by paying them off and cancelling them, seem likely to prove embarrassing to the republicans in Congress. Western republicans are in private conversation that it will not do to commit the party to this session to such a policy, because the West and Northwest will not bear it. What they wish is a temporary policy in regard to the greenbacks, promising to withdraw them at some convenient future time, declaring that they ought to be withdrawn, but that the present is not a good time to call them in. That is to say, these Western republicans are "in favor of a Maine liquor law, but opposed to enforcing it."

And whatever the administration may recommend the republicans in Congress, or at least those from the West and Northwest, will oppose any positive action upon. They will vote for any number of resolutions declaring that the greenbacks ought to be withdrawn at some future date, but they will not vote for any measure to bring about immediate action. Nor is it probable that the administration will urge them to do so. The Message and Treasury report will "put the party right on the record," and that will be the end of the matter until after the Presidential election.

WHERE THE TROUBLE LIES.

The main trouble in the matter lies in the fact that the Western and Northwestern States are the republican States. On these the party depends for its votes next year, and the republican leaders are very tender footed when they come to measures which, however necessary for the public good, are likely to arouse opposition in the States where the republican strength now lies. There is a report here to-day which shows the real republican sentiment on the greenback question. It is generally known that the legal tender case of Butler vs. Chittenden, which involves the question whether legal tender notes can be constitutionally issued in time of peace, is to come before the Supreme Court for final adjudication. If it is to await its turn, it will come up before the court about May, 1881, but it may be called as a preferred or privileged case on the calendar almost at once. Well, the story goes that the counsel in the case thought it useful to consult the Attorney General on the advisability and convenience to him of calling up the case at once, as one of privilege, and that General Devens thought it not advisable, on the general ground that any decision by the Court might cause public excitement, and that such excitement was likely to injure the party's prospects next year. The story is given you as it circulates here among politicians, and it is certain that it expresses the sentiments and wishes of the greater number of republicans, Eastern as well as Western men, though not of all, for a few Eastern republicans say openly that they do not expect any useful action from their party or from Congress. That the only way to get the legal tender notes out of the way is by the help of the Supreme Court, and that the case should be brought up at once, because the longer continuance of the legal tender circulation exposes the country to very grave dangers.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

As to the silver question the Western republicans are more decided. They not only oppose the President's suggestion that the "coinage of silver be stopped," but they are developing a plan to force the silver dollars into circulation. It is proposed to force the national banks to take silver and silver certificates on deposit. By this means, it is said, the coinage can be continued at the present rate of \$2,000,000 per month for a couple of years longer without serious public opposition.

"If we can make the banks receive their resolution to reject silver and oblige them to take it on deposit on equal terms with gold and greenbacks, the country will carry \$100,000,000 of silver without grumbling," said a Western republican to-day. This is, of course, only another device to tide over the Presidential election, but the chief hope of the shrewder republican leaders lies in their belief that the democratic extremists will open the session with new demands for more greenbacks and for the unlimited coinage of silver, and that the republicans can spend the session in opposing and debating such extreme propositions they feel that they will be excused by the country for doing nothing positive, and will be able to go into the Presidential canvass next year pointing to an unexceptionable "record" of promises and statements of principle, and yet with nothing accomplished which can hurt the feelings of greenbacker or silver man in the West.

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It is very doubtful whether the present leaders of the democratic party in Congress have wit enough to see that a repetition of last session's currency nonsense will only help the republicans to do what seems to be a very embarrassing thing. The Southwestern democrats very generally demand the unlimited coinage of silver, and Western democrats of the Voorhees type not only support them in this, but are just now inclined to demand more greenbacks. If these Western and Southwestern men retain the leadership, which, under Senator Thurman and Speaker Randall, they obtained at the last session, the republicans will have an easy time of it. They will assume the rôle of conservatives, make a desperate show of fight against inflation and unlimited silver, and will claim the gratitude of the country for saving it from a worse fate than that which it is now suffering. Meantime they will be able to bring the session to a close without any remedial currency measures, and will appeal to the country next fall with a brand new set of promises.

There are a few democrats, of course, who will see that and who would like to use the present opportunity to drag their party out of the slough of silver money and depreciated silver. There is private talk here of a conference of democratic sound money men as soon as the session opens, with a view to agreeing on a policy demanding the immediate retirement, by refunding or otherwise, of the greenbacks, and the stoppage of silver coinage at the mints. The democrats who urge this as the true policy for their party count among them some of the most eminent and respected Senators and Representatives.

COURSE OF SOUND MONEY DEMOCRATS.

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THE UTE COMMISSION.

PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED BY FALSE RUMORS OF THE MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS.

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Secretary Schurz received the following despatch to-day from General Hatch, the president of the Ute Commission:—

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To the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.:—

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As to the silver question the Western republicans are more decided. They not only oppose the President's suggestion that the "coinage of silver be stopped," but they are developing a plan to force the silver dollars into circulation. It is proposed to force the national banks to take silver and silver certificates on deposit. By this means, it is said, the coinage can be continued at the present rate of \$2,000,000 per month for a couple of years longer without serious public opposition.

"If we can make the banks receive their resolution to reject silver and oblige them to take it on deposit on equal terms with gold and greenbacks, the country will carry \$100,000,000 of silver without grumbling," said a Western republican to-day. This is, of course, only another device to tide over the Presidential election, but the chief hope of the shrewder republican leaders lies in their belief that the democratic extremists will open the session with new demands for more greenbacks and for the unlimited coinage of silver, and that the republicans can spend the session in opposing and debating such extreme propositions they feel that they will be excused by the country for doing nothing positive, and will be able to go into the Presidential canvass next year pointing to an unexceptionable "record" of promises and statements of principle, and yet with nothing accomplished which can hurt the feelings of greenbacker or silver man in the West.

ATTITUDE OF THE DEMOCRATS.

It is very doubtful whether the present leaders of the democratic party in Congress have wit enough to see that a repetition of last session's currency nonsense will only help the republicans to do what seems to be a very embarrassing thing. The Southwestern democrats very generally demand the unlimited coinage of silver, and Western democrats of the Voorhees type not only support them in this, but are just now inclined to demand more greenbacks. If these Western and Southwestern men retain the leadership, which, under Senator Thurman and Speaker Randall, they obtained at the last session, the republicans will have an easy time of it. They will assume the rôle of conservatives, make a desperate show of fight against inflation and unlimited silver, and will claim the gratitude of the country for saving it from a worse fate than that which it is now suffering. Meantime they will be able to bring the session to a close without any remedial currency measures, and will appeal to the country next fall with a brand new set of promises.

There are a few democrats, of course, who will see that and who would like to use the present opportunity to drag their party out of the slough of silver money and depreciated silver. There is private talk here of a conference of democratic sound money men as soon as the session opens, with a view to agreeing on a policy demanding the immediate retirement, by refunding or otherwise, of the greenbacks, and the stoppage of silver coinage at the mints. The democrats who urge this as the true policy for their party count among them some of the most eminent and respected Senators and Representatives.

COURSE OF SOUND MONEY DEMOCRATS.

Their difficulty is, or at least has always been heretofore, that they spend their strength in talk and lack the leadership and carry their policy. The Western and Southwestern inflationists and silver men push ahead with contempt for such men as Bayard, Kernan, Handolph, Lamar, Butler, Hampton and others of that stripe. They profess the utmost respect for such "philosophers," as they call them, but say that they are not men of action.

STEAMER GATE CITY, DUNSTON, SAVANNAH 3 DAYS.

Steamer GATE CITY, Dunston, Savannah 3 days, with mail and passengers to Georgia.

Steamer GATE CITY, Dunston, Savannah 3 days, with mail and passengers to Georgia.

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 26, 1879.

To the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.:—

An investigation was stopped this morning by rumors from the White River Ute, who state that runners from the United States army, who came to the heels of the "wild men." Doubtless they will talk and confer this session, as they did at the last, but they would surprise themselves if they knew more than this. The very current of policy which they now talk of, discussed last January in private conferences, and were all agreed that to commit their party to it was the only way to honorable success. But they only talked, and each waited upon some other one to lead the way. At this time there is a disposition among those democrats to ask Senator Bayard to open the ball, but it must be said of Mr. Bayard that, while he is in many respects an admirable man, he has yet to show the public or his